Applicants elect the claims of Group II (claims 2-3 (in part), 11 (in part), 13-14 (in part), 17, 29-30, 32, 34, 39, 43-44, 46, 51, 54, 58-59, 62, 68, 70, 80, 85-90, 91 (in part), 93, 100-104 (in part)) with traverse.

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure ("MPEP") states that:

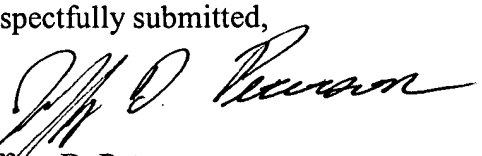
> "If the search and the examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions." MPEP § 803, emphasis added.

Applicants respectfully submit that all the pending claims (claims 2, 3, 11 and 13-104) of the present invention could be examined together without placing any serious burden on the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

All of the pending claims under consideration (claims 2-3, 11, 13-14, 17, 29-30, 32, 34-35, 38-49, 51-64, and 68-104) have already been searched and examined by the previous examiner, Theodore Criares. The results of the previous examiner's search are readily available to the current examiner and are part of the prosecution history of the application. Applicant's previous amendment filed on November 18th, 2004 narrowed the scope of the pending claims, and therefore should not have required a broader prior art search by the examiner. As the scope of the claims has already been searched by the USPTO, it should not be a burden for the current examiner to review the record and proceed with the prosecution of the application. Furthermore, if the previous examiner did not find it necessary to restrict the claims any further than was done in the restriction requirement of February 27, 2002, the USPTO should maintain this consistent position with respect to the need for a restriction requirement for the claims of the application.

Applicants therefore traverse the restriction requirements for the reasons set forth above.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey D. Peterson
Reg. No. 49,038

Docket No.: 17620/9316
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
One South Pinckney Street
P. O. Box 1806
Madison, WI 53701-1806
608.257.3501
Q:\client\017620\9316\B0585262.1